

Message Text

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TAGS: SHUM, TH

SUBJ: KRIANGSAK ON HUMAN RIGHTS

SUMMARY: GENERAL KRIANGSAK TOLD FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS ON JULY 7 THAT THAILAND RESPECTS BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS, WHICH HE DEFINED PRIMARILY AS ECONOMIC RIGHTS, AND THE U.S. SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT DIFFERENT CIVILIZATIONS PRODUCE DIFFERENT ATTITUDES TOWARDS WHAT CAN BE CALLED A PERSON'S RIGHTS. OBSTRUCTIONS TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN THAILAND INCLUDED SUBVERSION, THE BURDEN OF SUPPORTING REFUGEES FROM NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AND NARCOTICS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN JULY 7 SPEECH AT FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CLUB OF THAILAND (FCCT) DEPUTY SUPREME COMMANDER GENERAL KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN ADDRESSED SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS. KRIANGSAK CALLED HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE "COURAGEOUS POLICY DECLARED BY PRESIDENT CARTER" WHICH HE HOPED USG WOULD HANDLE EFFECTIVELY AT HOME RATHER THAN "TRY TO BE A MORAL ARBITER TO THE REST OF THE WORLD." HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH IT IS OFTEN DIFFICULT FOR THOSE BORN INTO ANGLO-SAXON TRADITIONS TO UNDERSTAND OTHER PEOPLE WHO UNDERGO DIFFERENT PROCESSES OF CIVILIZATION, OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS THAILAND CHERISH FREEDOM AND RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS BUT MAY NOT USE SAME DEFINITIONS AS PRESCRIBED BY WASHINGTON. PRESS FREEDOM IN THE U.S.,
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FOR EXAMPLE, WENT SO FAR AS TO INFRINGE ON PRIVACY AND FREEDOM FROM DENIGRATION. KRIANGSAK CITED PERSONAL EXAMPLE OF DENIGRATION IN U.S. PRESS THAT HE HAD HAD NARCOTICS TRAFFICKER EXECUTED IN ORDER TO AVOID REVELATION THAT HE HAD BENEFITTED FROM NARCOTICS TRADE. (REFERENCE IS TO LATE-APRIL NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE BY DAVID ANDLEMAN.) KRIANGSAK SAID EXECUTION WAS DECISION OF PRIME MINISTER,

AND ARTICLE WAS ONE WHICH KRIANGSAK CONSIDERED AN INFRINGE-
MENT UPON HIS RIGHTS. NEWSPAPER HAD NOT BEEN BANNED AND
CORRESPONDENT HAD NOT BEEN DEPORTED, BUT CORRESPONDENTS
SHOULD REMEMBER THAT THEIR READING PUBLIC HAS A RIGHT TO
THE TRUTH AND THEY HAVE RESPONSIBILITY TO TELL IT.

2. KRIANGSAK REVIEWED HUMAN RIGHTS CONTRIBUTIONS OF
FORMER THAI KINGS, MANY OF WHICH PRE-DATED AMERICAN IN-
DEPENDENCE AND NOTED THAT IN EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY,
U.S. LEADERSHIP PAID TRIBUTE TO FREEDOM BUT KEPT SLAVES.

KRIANGSAK SAID THAT VARIOUS PRONOUNCEMENTS OF CONCERN
ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS LEFT HIM CONFUSED. IN HIS VIEW,
HOWEVER, THE BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH HAD MEANING
AND SHOULD BE STRESSED WORLD-WIDE INCLUDED:

- THE RIGHT TO BE FREE FROM HUNGER
- THE RIGHT TO SHELTER AND TO A HOME
- THE RIGHT TO HAVE ADEQUATE CLOTHING
- THE RIGHT TO MEDICAL TREATMENT DURING SICKNESS
- THE RIGHT TO TRAVEL FREELY
- THE RIGHT TO AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR EDUCATION
- THE RIGHT TO PROTECTION OF ONE'S PHYSICAL BODY,
ONE'S FAMILY AND PROPERTY.

3. KRIANGSAK NOTED THAT THAILAND FACES THREE MAJOR PROBLEMS--
BURDENS TO THE THAI ECONOMY--WHICH OBSTRUCT THE REALIZATION
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OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS... SUBVERSION, THE INFLUX OF REFUGEES,
AND NARCOTICS. ON SUBJECT OF REFUGEES, HE NOTED THAT
WESTERN NATIONS HAVE REMOVED "THE CREAM" AMONG REFUGEES
FROM INDOCHINA, LEAVING THAILAND WITH THE HEAVY BURDEN OF
THOUSANDS OF UNSKILLED PEOPLE. HE SAID THAT THOSE COUN-
TRIES MOST RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING ABOUT THE SITUATION
WHICH CASUED THE REFUGEES TO FLEE TO THAILAND SHOULD BE
WILLING TO SHARE THAILAND'S BURDEN. THE UNITED STATES
HAD FULFILLED ITS RESPONSIBILITIES TO REFUGEES ONLY "TO
LIMITED EXTENT AND MORE AS A MATTER OF FORM. AMERICA MUST
NOT FORGET THAT THE PROBLEM OF REFUGEES IN THAILAND IS
A PROBLEM INVOLVING HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM."

4. ACCORDING TO KRIANGSAK, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
OAKLEY HAD SPOKEN FAIRLY AND POSITIVELY ON SUBJECT OF
HUMAN RIGHTS IN THAILAND. KRIANGSAK STRESSED THAT DUR-
ING THE THREE YEARS OF "SO-CALLED DEMOCRACY", MOBS HAD
INTERFERRED WITH HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE THAI PEOPLE; THE
PRESENT GOVERNMENT HAD RESTORED SECURITY AND CONFIDENCE
TO THE PEOPLE. "ONLY WITH PEACE AND SECURITY CAN HUMAN
RIGHTS SURVIVE."

5. DURING QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD, KRIANGSAK WAS ASKED ABOUT POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THAILAND AND REPLIED THAT NONE OF THE POLITICIANS FROM THE PREVIOUS REGIMES HAD BEEN JAILED. HE SAID THAT WHEN ASKED BY POLITICIANS WHETHER IT WAS ADVISABLE TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY, HE HAD COUNSELLED THEM TO STAY. IN THE CASE OF DR. PUAI, SEVERAL AIRLINES HAD REFUSED HIM PASSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY UNTIL KRIANGSAK HAD SPOKEN WITH AN AIRLINE COMPANY AND SAID THERE WAS NO OBJECTION TO DR. PUAI'S DEPARTURE. REGARDING THOSE DETAINEES FROM THE OCTOBER 6 INCIDENT AT THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY WHOM KRIANGSAK SAID THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT HAD INHERITED, HE GAVE ASSURANCE THAT THEY WOULD BE TRIED BY THE JUDICIAL PROCESS. ASKED IF HE CONSIDERED DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL A VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, KRIANGSAK DECLINED TO ANSWER.

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6. ON SUBJECT OF RUMORS THAT THE DAYS OF THE THANIN GOVERNMENT WERE LIMITED, KRIANGSAK SAID HE COULD GUARANTEE THAT THE MILITARY WAS "SYNCHRONIZED" WITH THE GOVERNMENT; HE CAUTIONED JOURNALISTS NOT TO BE UPSET BY RUMORS. A JAPANESE CORRESPONDENT ASKED WHETHER, IF THAILAND WERE INVADED, THE COUNTRY COULD DO WITHOUT AMERICAN ASSISTANCE. KRIANGSAK REPLIED THAT THE THAI WEAPONS SYSTEM IS DEPENDENT UPON THE U.S. FOR RESUPPLY. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE COUNTRY MUST BECOME MORE SELF-RELIANT FOR LOGISTICS.

IT WAS ALSO NECESSARY TO GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THE NATURE OF THE THREAT AND JUDGE INTENTIONS IN ORDER TO PREPARE. SHOULD THE TIME COME, KRIANGSAK WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE THAI PEOPLE WOULD UNITE AND STAND TO FIGHT.

7. TEXT OF PRUZHRED REMARKS IS BEING POUCHED EA/TIMBS.

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